

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

On page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). On page 2, paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 21-26 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

On page 2, paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 1-20 and 27. After amending the claims as set forth above, only allowed Claims 1-20, and 27 are pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

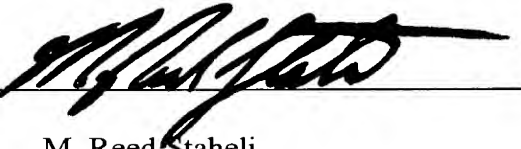
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 22, 2003

By 

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Customer Number: 26371



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